FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 DECEMBER 1980

American Hostages

Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i reiterated that the United States "can free the hostages before the Christmas holidays" if it provides the "appropriate guarantees." In a 1-hour meeting with the Swedish ambassador to Iran, reported by Tehran radio, the prime minister said Iran's final reply will soon be sent to the United States and then "it is up to the U.S. Government to take any necessary action to speed the release of the hostages." Earlier, Stockholm radio reported that Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, Supreme Court president and Islamic Republican Party leader, said at a press conference that the last U.S. proposal for the release of the hostages is "almost acceptable" and merely requires "some corrections." Beheshti also restated the view that Prime Minister Raja'i expressed on 16 December that the problem will be resolved in the near future. Tehran radio's report of Beheshti's press conference made no mention of his statements on the hostage issue.

Despite these "clearly optimistic statements" by Beheshti and Raja'i, Stockholm radio said that "persons with contacts with the Algerian negotiation delegation" in Tehran report that the Iranians have now "hardened" their demands. Not only are they demanding the unfreezing of Iran's assets in the United States and their transfer to non-American banks in a Third World country, but they are demanding the immediate transfer of the shah's assets to Iran itself or a third country rather than accepting the U.S. plan, which, the radio said, is to freeze the shah's assets and allow Iran to assert its rights to them through U.S. courts. Although the radio said it is "unclear" whether this demand has been included in Iran's "final reply" to the United States, handed to the Algerians late on 17 December, such reports are sufficiently serious for the "optimistic tones" of Raja'i and Beheshti to be treated with "very great caution."

Iran Domestic Affairs

Khomeyni's Health--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, in a 13 December report from Cyprus, said a member of the French medical team that was "urgently summoned to Tehran about 10 days ago" revealed that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's health is in a "delicate state," although he did not say his life is in danger.

Economic Report--The deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, in an interview reported by Tehran radio, admitted there are energy shortages and problems moving goods from the ports, but expressed confidence that the situation will improve. Referring to the shortage of money in the banks, Dr Nurbakhsh said that following official calls for more deposits, the cash assets of the banks have increased dramatically so there is no longer "any problem in this respect." The minister said Iran strictly controls the outflow of foreign exchange, especially for foreign visits and tourism, the import of luxury items and payments to students abroad. Dr Nurbakhsh admitted prices have gone up but said the problem will be controlled in the short term by rationing and in the long term by regulating and programming the market and elminating "unnecessary middlemen." Tehran radio earlier reported that the Majlis has approved the first reading of a bill proposing the nationalization of foreign trade.

Beheshti Press Conference--A Tehran radio account of Ayatollah Beheshti's 17 December press conference reported his claim that there is "basic unity and harmony" between the government and the Majlis and that the "revolutionary organizations," the "vast majority" of the clergy and a "large part" of the nation are also following the same line. Nevertheless, Beheshti said that attempts to harm this unity are not acceptable and that any action that might create a breach between the clergy and the nation should be condemned. He said enemy plots should be neutralized through awareness and solidarity, while Iran's administrative system should be purged of the "dark aspects" of the former regime by the application of Islamic principles, which can "cleanse the people of all impurities in their inner lives."

Clergy Support for Khomeyni--According to Tehran radio, prominent Tehran clergymen issued a statement denouncing "cursed songs" that have frightened "all Muslims, especially the ulema," and praising Ayatollah Khomeyni. The "orders of the esteemed leader," the statement urged, should be followed.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

AFP reported that the pumping of Iraqi crude oil to the Syrian port of Baniyas has been suspended for "unknown" reasions. An earlier Iranian report claimed that Iranian Air Force planes had hit Iraqi pipelines to Syria, halting the oil flow. Tehran radio reported sporadic Iraqi shelling of Susangerd and Ahvaz while Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi positions around Darkhovin, Abadan and Mared. The two sides clashed along the Karkheh Kur River and the Allaho Akbar heights, the enemy added. INA, citing Iraqi sources, reported that Iraqi units have begun using captured Iranian weapons including British and U.S. self-propelled guns and tanks and U.S. antitank missiles. INA said the soliders using these weapons "were happy with the good results they obtained" against the Iranians.

Gulf Islands

In an interview with the UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ, reported by TAP, a member of the Algerian delegation currently touring the Middle East said that one objective of the visit to the UAE is to present an Algerian proposal to settle the dispute between Iran and the UAE over the islands in the Persian Gulf. The delegation member added that Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani approved the Algerian proposal during his visit to Algiers last month and said he is optimistic about "a positive outcome" of the negotiations.

Egypt

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed "satisfaction and optimism" at the selection of Alexander Haig as U.S. secretary of state-designate. According to Cairo radio, the foreign minister said that Egypt "welcomes" the choice of a man with such "rich experience" in foreign affairs and one who "places a priority on tne Middle East problem" and will "ensure the region's stability in a speedy manner."

Syrian-Libyan Relations

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad concluded 3 days of talks in Benghazi on the establishment of an unitary state between the two countries. According to JANA, the two leaders issued a statement at the end of their meetings detailing their progress toward the unitary goal. In the statement, the two leaders agreed to form "revolutionary leadership" to guide the unity proceedings, to set up a joint committee to draft the framework for the unitary state, to continue the unity meetings and to encourage broad cooperation between all institutions in the two countries.

Jordanian-Iraqi Relations

In a message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, carried by Amman television, Jordan's King Husayn expressed his "deepest appreciation" for the unsolicited Iraqi initiative to reach "a fraternal and distinctive solution" to the final demarcation of the border between the two countries. Calling it "tangible proof" of the friendship between Jordan and Iraq, the king said the step will "bolster all possible cooperation" and serve the Arab nation.

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PDPA LEADERS ATTEND 'VOLUNTEERS' DEPARTURE CEREMONY

LD171620 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] Another group of heroes and courageous strugglers of the PDPA voluntarily left Kabul this afternoon in order to crush the mercenary elements and the traitors to the homeland and revolution.

Before the volunteer group departed, Emtiaz Hasan, member of the PDPA Central Committee, assistant to the PDPA Department of Justice and Defense and member of the Revolution Council, said: We thank you revolutionary and heroic comrades who are going to defend the achievements of the revolution and to safeguard the national honor against the professional murderers, brigands, rebels and traitors to the country and people. He added: You courageous and struggling youths who are standing in the front ranks of the struggle and who have demonstrated that you are fighting against the enemies in order to defend the peaceful life of your persecuted people have the great task of joining the ranks of the toiling masses and assuring them that these thieves and brigands will no longer have the power to encroach on their life and property. Emtiaz Hasan said in conclusion: We are fully convinced that we will topple the enemy on every front and that we will throw him into the junkyard of history.

Also attending the meeting were Zohur Razmjo, member of the PDPA Central Committee and of the Revolution Council and secretary of the Kabul party committee, and Dr Gholam Faruq, member of the DRA Revolution Council and chief of the Justice and Defense Department of the Kabul party committee.

JOWZJAN, KABUL PROVINCE REBEL BANDS DEFEATED

LD171816 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] A large group of counterrevolutionary and highway robber elements have recently been crushed and a number of them arrested in Jowzjan Province and the district of Mohammad Afghan of Kabul Province.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Sheberghan, the capital of Jowzjan, that a group of these thieves and murderers, who would stop vehicles in the Fayzabad area on the main road between Jowzjan and Balkh and loot the property of their passengers, have been crushed by the security forces and party activists with the cooperation of the noble people of that area.

According to another report from Mohammad Afghan district of Kabul Province a large group of traitors to the country and the revolution, who had established themselves in some of the villages of that district, have been arrested through the vigilance of the security forces with the cooperation of the noble people of that district and are undergoing serious interrogation. Various makes of American, Chinese and Pakistani arms and a large quantity of ammunition, (?handgrenades) and printed pamphlets were seized from these criminals and murderers which prove their connection with rebel gangs outside the country.

USSR DROPPING ARMOR INTO DISPUTED PROVINCES

BK180811 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Dec (AFP)--The Soviet military command in Afghanistan has started airdropping armour, including BRDM armoured personnel carriers (AFC), in the provinces to counter growing rebel activity, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

Describing the air dropping operation as a "new Soviet military tactic", the sources quoted eyewitnesses and said that the Soviets started air dropping of the armour in Maidan in Vardak Province, adjoining Kabul since the last two weeks. The sources could not give details of the other armour, but confirmed that the BRDM APC, which is unmatched in the West, had been parachuted. "The air droppings have been noticed in Mojahedin (freedom fighter) concentration areas," the sources said. In Maidan, the armour was dropped ahead of advancing government forces and on the other side of the narrow passes, in an apparent attempt to either reinforce the troops or to trap the rebels.

Giving details of rebel activities and government counter operations, the sources said that the highway leading to Paghman from Kabul was blocked by government troops for three days beginning Dec 9. The road was blocked in an apparent attempt to root out rebels from the area, the sources said. However, a large number of rebels managed to escape the government sweep, they said quoting villagers.

The Afghan Government forces aided by Soviet military strength also conducted similar sweeps last week in Ghazni and Wardak Provinces. The Soviet used "large range artillery" fire from self-propeled guns during the operations, the sources but could not give details.

Afghan rebels blew up an electric power station at the Bagrami textile mill east of Kabul on Dec 9. In an attempt to trace out the persons involved in the incident, the Soviets reportedly killed an unspecified number of mill workers on Dec 12, the sources said. The sources were told by informants that several Afghan mill workers were tortured for information and quoted an Afghan doctor who had dressed the wounds of the workers.

On Dec 12, four Soviet officers and three privates were reportedly killed by rebels at the Rishkor part of Kabul, the sources said. A fire broke out in Iqbal cinema hall in the eastern part of the city the same day. Another fire destroyed a vacant house in the city belonging to Mr Ziray, a member of the Revolution Council. Mr Ziray belongs to the Khalq faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan which is opposed to Babrak Karmal's Parcham faction.

Last week witnessed an increase in Soviet air activities, the sources said. Several giant MI-6 helicopters were seen flying to and from southwest of Kabul airport. MI-8 helicopters and MI-24 gun ships were seen frequently heading south-west before sunrise and returning back after several hours. Earlier, diplomatic sources in the Indian capital had spoken of increased fighting in Pakhtia Province.

AFP: CUBAN, BULGARIAN TROOPS FIGHTING REBELS

OW181051 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Text] Tokyo, 18 Dec (AFP)--Cuban and Bulgarian soldiers are fighting Moslem insurgents in Afghanistan, a leader of the Afghan Hezb-e Eslami freedom fighters organization said here today. Speaking at the foreign correspondents' club here, Mangal Hussan, second in command of the Hezb-e Eslami, said that the Cubans and Bulgarians were sent to Afghanistan about seven months ago because they were better trained for "guerrilla warfare" in mountainous regions. He said that both Cuban and Bulgarian soldiers had been found killed after clashes between the insurgents and Soviet-Government forces in northern Afghanistan.

Mr Hassan arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday with two fellow Eslami leaders. He said the mission planned to make the Japanese people understand the latest situation in Afghanistan after the Soviet armed intervention a year ago. He told newsmen that his countrymen would never abandon the fight to "save our fatherland from the Soviets".

GANDHI ACCEPTS SOVIET OFFER OF JOINT SPACE FLIGHT

BK170856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] The prime minister told the Lok Sabha today that the Soviet offer to train some Indians for a joint space flight along with Russian cosmonauts has been accepted. Mrs Gandhi said scientific advancement is taking place the world over and India cannot afford to lag behind. Replying to supplimentaries during question time she said new experiences in the field of science would also remain useful. Details of the program have not been worked out so far. In reply to a question the prime minister said: just because the Janata Government had found nothing in the Soviet offer to justify participation of an Indian cosmonaut in the experiment there is no reason that the present government should also adopt the same attitude.

MORE NUCLEAR-POWER PLANTS UNDER CONSIDERATION

BK180952 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi told the Rajya Sabha today that the government is considering setting up more atomic-power plants in the country during the sixth 5-year plan. In a written reply, she said these plants will run on indigenous fuel. A major impetus is to be given to programs for the development and use of solar energy during the sixth plan. An outlay of about 500 million rupees has been indicated for this program during the period.

OPEC ASSURES INDIA OF OIL SUPPLIES, AID

BK170915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] The Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries has assured India of oil supplies and financial aid for developing her domestic energy potential. The assurance was given by a spokesman of the organization in Bali while talking about the growing difficulties of oil-importing developing countries caused by the latest increase in the price of crude. He said that India can also expect help from OPEC countries for meeting balance of payment difficulties and investment of petrodollars.

RAO: INDIA TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH

BK180856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Text] India will shortly open its embass in Phnom Penh. It will be headed by a charge d'affaire pending the appointment of an ambassador. The Kampuchean Embassy in New Delhi is also expected to start functioning soon. This was stated by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao in the Lok Sabha today. He told the house during question time that the Kampuchean Government will send an advance party to New Delhi shortly to set up their embassy.

In reply to another question, Rao said the government has no information regarding the alleged attempts being made by some countries to delay the opening of the two embassies. He reiterated the government's stand that the UN seat should go to the Heng Samrin government.

STOCKHOLM REPORTS BEHESHTI REMARKS ON HOSTAGES

LD171230 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1130 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] Reports came from Iran yesterday indicating that the release of the 52 American hostages could now be very near and that it could take place before Christmas. Such statements have again come from Tehran today, but at the same time there are reports that Iran in the past few days has adopted a new, harder attitude regarding what the United States must do in connection with the late shah's assets in America in order to achieve the release of the hostages, and that a quick solution of the hostage problem cannot, after all, be expected. Here is a report by Peter Werner, our correspondent in Tehran:

Positive, encouraging statements about a speedy solution to the hostage problem continue to come from the Iranian leaders today. At a press conference this morning Ayatollah Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, leader of the Islamic Republican Party, and one of the country's most powerful men, said that the last U.S. proposal is almost acceptable and that it is necessary merely that there be some corrections, as he put it. Beheshti hoped that the problem would be solved in the near future.

Prime Minister Raja'i also spoke yesterday of a solution in the near future, and he specifically mentioned Christmas, saying that there no political or time-consuming problems remain. Raja'i said that Iran has only asked for certain economic guarantees from the United States, but he did not say what these are.

At the same time that these clearly optimistic statements are being made, in addition to the (?almost equally) optimistic comments from throughout the world, there are reports from persons with contacts with the Algerian negotiation delegation, which has now been in Tehran for 2 weeks, that the Iranians have now hardened their demands. Iran now is said to be demanding on the economic side not only the unfreezing of Iran's assets in the United States and their immediate transfer to non-American banks in a Third World country, presumably Algeria--which the United States has already agreed to--but also that Iran no longer accepts the American plan for getting at the assets of the shah's family in the United States. This plan involved actions by the U.S. Government to freeze the shah's assets in the same way as it did with the Iranian assets last winter. Iran could then try to assert its right to the shah's funds through U.S. courts. Iran is now said to be demanding that the assets of the shah's family be immediately transferred to Iran or to a third country. This is legally impossible for a U.S. president to do, and thus there do not seem to be any prospects for a speedy solution to the hostage affair.

The United States has presumably gone as far as possible to make concessions. The Algerians brought with them to Tehran 18 signed but undated decrees from the U.S. President which were to fulfill all the U.S. promises so far [word indistinct] of Iran's hardening demands are based on the discussions the Iranians have had with the Algerian mediators during the past few days. It is still unclear whether these demands are included in Iran's final reply to the United States, which was handed to the Algerians late yesterday evening.

The reports are in any case so serious that the optimistic tones of yesterday must for the time being be taken with very great caution.

RAJA'I DISCUSSES HOSTAGE ISSUE WITH SWEDISH ENVOY

LD181123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1039 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, this morning the Swedish ambassador in Tehran met and conferred with Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister.

During this meeting, which lasted for more than an hour, the Swedish ambassador espressed delight for the friendly relations between the two countries. He said: We are sorry that Iran's relations with our friends has deteriorated.

The prime minister said in reply: We are also sorry that the European countries sided against us. But basically of what benefit are these countries and their friends to us? They, together with America, imposed economic sanctions upon us, but they did not show any reaction during the recently imposed war or to Saddam's crimes.

The prime minister added: We have announced many times before that some of the hostages are spies, and we have presented the necessary documents to support this. You and your colleagues have contacted the Iranian officials several times on this matter, while during the war which was imposed upon Iran by Iraq, the Swedish ambassador in that country did not have any meetings with Saddam at all. Our question is why those countries, who claim to be supporters of freedom, have kept quiet now and only talk instead of doing something practical?

The prime minister added: In fact, it was America itself that combined the hostage issue with political issues and delayed their release. And because of this fact, our last reply on the explanations demanded by America has been prepared and will be sent to America in the near future. After that, it is up to the U.S. Government to take any necessary action to speed the release of the hostages.

The prime minister said: America can free the hostages before the Christmas holidays by giving the appropriate guarantees.

REPLY ON HOSTAGES TO BE SUBMITTED 'SOON'

JN180827 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0813 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Text] Citing the PARS correspondent, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reports that the Algerian delegation will soon submit the Iranian Government's reply on the U.S. hostage issue to the U.S. Government. The report adds that this reply comes after 9 months of discussions on the hostage issue. It is hoped that the Iranian reply will be conveyed through the Algerian delegation to the U.S. Embassy in Algiers or directly to the U.S. Government.

It will be recalled that Prime Minister brother Raja'i stated in a television interview that we consider the hostage issue as over as far as we are concerned.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT ON HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS

LD181013 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Dec 80 p 1

[Hasan Luqays report: "Background to U.S.-Iranian Negotiations: Algerian Delegation Carries Authorization From Carter Regarding Most Washington Will Accept"]

[Excerpts] Tehran--Contrary to statements by Iranian officials regarding the positive character of the U.S. response to the Iranian conditions for the release of the U.S. hostages, the Iranian Government's stand remains unchanged. Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i's statement following his meeting with Imam Khomeyni yesterday afternoon indicates that the imam has approved the answer to be given to the Algerian delegation, and that Iran has asked to receive financial guarantees via the Algerian Government, which is looking after Iran's interests in the United States.

The guarantees that Iran is seeking are that assets will be released and transferred to Algeria and that the shah's assets and property will be handed over to the Iranian Government.

What still remains an obstacle to solving this problem is the Iranian Government's fourth condition, which is related to returning the shah's assets and property to the Iranian Government. The Iranian negotiator is pressing for the frozen Iranian assets to be released and immediately transferred to Algeria. He is also pressing for the shah's assets and property to be returned simultaneously with the release of the hostages. Sources among the Algerian delegation in Tehran say that the United States has accepted most of the conditions but the difficulty lies in reaching a compromise on the fourth condition, particularly since it involves legal, more than administrative, matters for the United States. The sources say that the United States has agreed to issue an order freezing the shah's assets and property until the U.S. courts decide on the case Iran is to submit for the retrieval of the funds. Proceeding from this, the Algerian delegation will try to carry on with its difficult task, which has developed from that of a messenger into that of a mediator, and now into that of a party providing guarantees for the implementation of any agreement that might be reached.

Western diplomatic sources in Tehran say that even if the Algerian delegation succeeds in persuading the Iranians to accept a compromise--to be satisfied with the U.S. decision to freeze the shah's funds--it cannot guarantee the outcome of the decision by the U.S. courts that will look into Iran's case.

The principle the Iranian negotiator proceeds from is the literal implementation of the conditions approved by parliament because they are law. The Iranian negotiator cannot tamper with the spirit in which these conditions were made and must apply them literally. An Iranian Government source said that the task of the executive branch is to implement the laws passed by the Majlis. Certain political and diplomatic sources believe that the Iranian insistence on the fourth condition aims at stressing that the revolution was right when it said that the shah squandered the people's money and that acceptance by the Americans of this condition would be a political victory on the international level and would shake the confidence of those who deal with American banks, be they countries or individuals. With regard to the impact of the release of the hostages on the internal situation, the sources believe that the Iranian Government is concerned with this aspect and is greatly interested in the effects any agreement may have on the internal situation.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES TABRIZ GUARDS AND WAR-WOUNDED

LD171210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1037 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Speech by Imam Khomeyni at 17 December meeting with group of invalids, war-wounded, and Tabriz Revolution Guards Corps personnel at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran--recorded, duration 7 minutes]

[Text] A large group of invalids and those injured during the revolution, and invalids from the war imposed by the puppet regime of Iraq upon Iran, together with a group of Islamic revolution guards sent from Tabriz to the battlefronts, this morning met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran. During the meeting, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a speech as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I do not know where to start and I do not know how to thank those appointed to the mission to serve God Almighty and Islam, to appreciate these determined faces, who are on their way to defend Islam.

How can I thank you, young men who have suffered for Islam and for your dear faith, and have become disabled? And how can I thank those of you, young men, who are on your way to the fronts? When I see these tragic scenes, I feel I am unable to say anything, although these faces have brought us pride. You yourselves are an eloquent expression of honor; you are an eloquent expression of Islam.

You have created honor for this nation, and it was you who ousted the great plundering powers, the enemies of Islam, and Satan from this country. And it is you, who are still trying for Islam and are sacrificing your lives. And no one can reward you for your services, except God Almighty. Your hard work will be rewarded by the almighty and gracious God. If you are disabled, [I pray] God may cure you. [shouts of "God willing" from the crowd] You have been appointed to serve Islam. And those of you who are on your way to the fronts, you are going to serve Islam. Islam values your efforts very highly. Islam and the whole nation are grateful to you. [shouts of "God is the greatest" from the crowd]

You are witness that, at present, people all over our country are engaged in a jihad. Each person is engaged in the jihad in different ways. You performed your jihad and God will reward you for it. And you in your way to take part in the jihad: May God bestow victory upon you. And the nation is behind you, they are engaged in a jihad too, men and women, young and old. But what is important is to realize that whatever we possess now is given to us by God Almighty; and we must return to God what has been entrusted to us.

You succeeded in going to battlefronts, you went to the battlefields and became invalids; you became victorious. And you, [those who are going to fight] will also succeed in gaining victory, God willing. [shouts of "God willing" from the crowd]

I must sincerely thank you and all the nation of Iran, who are trying so hard for their homeland, for dear Islam and for the liberation of the oppressed. May God grant you His favor, mercy, blessings and benedictions. [shouts of "God willing" from the crowd]

CLERGY ISSUE STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR KHOMEYNI

LD171322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Statement issued by Tehran clergy on 17 December "in connection with recent events in the country"]

[Text] In His exalted name. His is the command. His Excellency Ayatollah Khomeyni, may God grace the Muslims with your long life. We hereby inform you that at this time, when the honorable nation of Iran is fighting the war imposed upon it with all its might in order to preserve Islam and the Muslims, cursed songs are heard that have frightened all Muslims, especially the ulema of Islam, may their blessing continue.

The ulema decisively expect more blessings to be granted so that the society will receive God's help in absolute unity under the leadership of the esteemed leader, and so that the nation will be successful in carrying out divine decrees and the holy laws of Islam and in crushing the enemies of Islam with total coordination under the banner of the Lord of the ages, may our lives be sacrificed for Him.

The chiefs of the tribe [as heard] and prominent dignitaries should obey all the regulations of the official religion by following the orders of the esteemed leader so that they may guide the homeland to salvation.

[Signed] Mohammad Baqer Ashtiani; Ahmad Hoseyn Shahrestani; Mirza Aqa Shirazi; Seyyed Mohammad Sadeq Lavasani; Seyyed Razi Shirazi; Seyyed Mohammad 'Aqi (Sedr); Ziaoddin (Estarabadi); Seyyed 'Ali Naqo Musavi Tehrani; Gholam Hoseyn Ja'fari; Mostafa (Masjed-Jame'i); Seyyed Mohammad Reza ('Alamohhoda); Mohsen Rafi'i; Mohammad Baqer Khansari; Seyyed Mohammad Reza Esfahani; Mohammad Taqi Vahidi' Mansur ('Asemi); (Masud Masjed-Jame'i); Seyyed 'Ali Hashemi-Golpaygani; and a large number of Tehran's ulema

BEHESHTI PRESS CONFERENCE ON NEED FOR UNITY

LD172108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, Ayatollah Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, today gave a press conference for domestic and foreign correspondents and talks about the current problems of the country, the need for unity between the students and the clergy, and differences between officials and those who sow the seeds of sedition.

In a speech at the beginning of the press conference he said: Today, we are at a point when all the legal organizations which are responsible for the administration of the country have been set up. There is basic unity and harmony between the government, i.e., the prime minister and the ministers, and the vast majority of the representatives of the people in the Majlis. Ayatollah Beheshti added: The revolutionary organizations are also mainly following the same line and the vast majority of the committed and responsible clergy and a large part of our valiant nation is also following the same path.

In general, all of them are following in the line of the leadership. This is why any attempt to harm this unity, any action or speech or writing which seeks to create any breach of this harmonious climate will not be acceptable to the revolution, to the nation or to the leader of this revolution. Under any conditions, the nation will demonstrate that it will never tolerate such harm or sedition. He added: We reject any deviation from the holy path of Islam and we condemn any action which may create a breach between the committed and responsible clergy and the valiant nation.

Then Dr Beheshti said: Undoubtedly, the enemy will not stop hatching plots. All the strata of the nation and the officials should know that we will always be confronted by the enemy and should always try to neutralize these conspiracies through awareness and with sincerity and through greater solidarity.

Concerning the methods of purges in the ministries and organizations, the president of the Supreme Court said: The administrative system of the country should set out to identify and attract believing and able persons. A great part of the purges should be such that in all the various levels of management and throughout society clear, powerful, genuine and attractive Islamic principles can cleanse the people in their inner lives of all impurities, and lead them toward purity; the eradication of the dark aspects of the former regime is part of the culture of Islam and the Islamic revolution. This is the basis of the purges.

BANI-SADR MEETS WITH ARMED FORCES COMMANDERS

LD171914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, who is in the southern parts of the country, during the past 2 days attended meetings in one of the cities in the south with Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the air force; Brigadier General Zahir Nezhad, commander of the ground forces; Colonel Foruzan, commander of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic; and a number of other military commanders. They reviewed and exchanged views on the overall position of the battle-fronts and the manner in which operations are being conducted by members of the armed forces.

CLOSING OF BANI-SADR COORDINATION OFFICE URGED

NC171324 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 17 Dec (AFP)--A religious official representing Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni at Nowzheh Airbase, near Hamadan, called yesterday for the closure of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's office for "coordination with the people", the AZADEGAN newspaper reported today. The article quoted the official as accusing the office--set up to diffuse information about the president's policies--of links with "counter-revolutionaries".

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON STATE OF ECONOMY

LD171926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, today gave an exclusive interview to PARS.

He was asked: How do you see the economic future of the country bearing in mind the reduction of production? He said: Bearing in mind that we are at the moment fighting on three fronts--the political-propaganda, the economic and the military--and are determined to stand on our own feet and move from a war situation to normality, we are facing some shortages in energy and in the releasing of goods from the ports. However, with the cooperation and the assistance of the people we are one hundred percent confident that we will be able to put up with the difficulties and I am sure that the people will improve the economic situation of the country by becoming active in productive sectors and by bearing the hardships. In general, I should say that all our economy is based upon the productive activities of the people.

Concerning the shortage of money in the banks, Nurbakhsh said: The issue of the banks is one of the signs of the cooperation of the people. After the officials asked the people to deposit their money in the banks, the cash assets of the banks have increased so much that the banks have been forced to send some of it to the Central Bank. In general, we no longer have any problem in this respect.

Concerning central planning for the advancement of development projects, Nurbakhsh said: The government is against centralizing all the programs and works in one center. It aims to give the governors general as free a hand as possible so that they can draw up plans on the basis of the needs of their regions and their knowledge of their regions. One hundred billion rials have been allocated to the governors general to implement urgent development projects. This method of action will prevent bureaucracy and the overlordship of the government. On the other hand, these projects will be coordinated through contacts between the governorates general and the government.

Concerning the foreign exchange earnings of the country, Nurbakhsh said: The flow of foreign exchange from the country is being completely controlled. No foreign exchange will be paid for foreign visits and tourism. Also, no bank will make credits available for the importing of luxury and unnecessary items. The sending of foreign exchange for students in foreign countries will be strictly controlled. I should add that there are no worries concerning the foreign exchange situation of our country.

Concerning relations with foreign banks, Nurbakhsh said: We are trying to work with those banks who will have friendly relations with us, despite the political differences their countries have with us.

Concerning inflation and the steps taken by the government to fight it, the deputy minister of economic affairs and finance told the PARS correspondent: Prices have gone up, mainly owing to profiteering and hoarding. The government is planning to put the necessary items at the disposal of the people as far as possible, at suitable prices, and to have complete supervision over the fair distribution of goods.

To this end, it has implemented a plan to ration necessary goods and consumer items as a short-term policy. However, in the long term, the government will follow the policy of regulating and programming the market; that is, planning the level of consumption and creating the necessary means to produce necessary items and distribute them properly so that the unnecessary middlemen are completely eliminated, so that there is a direct relationship between producers and consumers.

Concerning the increase in the price of gasoline, Nurbakhsh said: The cost of gasoline to the government is the same as its present price. These prices are permanent and even after the war these prices will not be reduced, because the government has created some facilities for mass transportation systems and the people can make use of them.

He then referred to the agricultural situation in the country. He said: The five wheat-growing provinces of the country--which are Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Ilam, Lorestan and West Azarbayjan--do not have sufficient means for sowing seeds owing to the war conditions, and the climatic situation, too, has caused a reduction in production in these regions. Of course, human resources, too, have not been productive enough owing to the lack of organization in the sowing and production program. But some programs have been made in this regard and up to the end of the current year about 8,000 tractors will be imported from abroad and the necessary means for sowing will also be made available. We hope that the human element, too, will be organized properly.

CENTRAL BANK LISTS CREDIT LOANS TO INDUSTRIES

LD171422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] According to a report by the correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Central Bank of Iran announced today: From the beginning [21 March] of the current year until now 926.6 billion rials of credit facilities have been loaned for various economic activities of the country. During the past 3 months, this bank has also loaned credit of 347.3 billion rials for continuation of credit facilities to various ministries, companies, government institutions, banks and for the expansion of agricultural activities, mining, industry, housing and provision of essential and basic goods, foodstuff and medicine. Therefore, the total amount of credit loaned by the Central Bank of Iran, from the beginning of the current year up to 16 December 1980, is over 776.6 billion rials.

On the basis of the same report, in accordance with the general policy of the government to develop and revive agriculture, during the past 3 months 9 billion rials have been placed at the disposal of the agricultural sector. Out of this sum, 6 billion rials has been allocated to purchase fodder from abroad, 2.3 billion rials for provision of seeds and nursery trees for transplantation, and 400 million rials have been placed at the disposal of the pasture development fund to purchase cotton seed and seeds of other oleaginous crops; 300 million rials have been placed at the disposal of the Iranian milk company for the purchase of butter, milk and wrapping paper.

In the field of mining and industry, following previous assistance given for reconstruction of the country's industries and in order to help to increase total supplies, during the past 3 months 2 billion rials credit has been placed at the disposal of the Sakkab Company to enable this company to purchase its requirement of raw material and spare parts from abroad for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.

The Central Bank also announced: During the past 3 months, 1.6 billion rials have been placed at the disposal of the investment and technical-economic assistance company for the atomic energy organization's shareholdings in foreign countries; 500 million rials to Tehran's regional water organization to purchase equipment from abroad for distributing water; and 200 million rials has been placed at the disposal of the Iran national airlines company, Homa, for the purchase of spare parts needed by the company.

The Central Bank has also announced its agreement in principle, to pay a credit of 30 billion rials to the housing bank for building new houses.

PARS OPENS ADDITIONAL OFFICES OVERSEAS

JN170851 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] PARS has opened offices in Beirut, Damascus, New Delhi and Islamabad as part of its efforts and activities aimed at bringing the voice of right and that of Muslim revolutionary society to all the oppressed people and world public opinion. PARS [word indistinct] to transmit news and reports on the Islamic Republic of Iran in English and Arabic.

PARS is also transmitting two newscasts daily: one, in Arabic, entitled "Iran Today" and the other, in English, entitled "Daily News." PARS hopes that this will be an effective step on the road of acquainting the world's peoples with the Iranian people and Iran's objectives.

AFP: NEWSPAPER EDITOR SIMON FARZAMI EXECUTED

NC180923 Paris AFP in English 0917 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 18 Dec (AFP)--Simon Farzami, 70, former editor of the banned French-language JOURNAL DE TEHRAN, was executed on Tuesday night, it was announced today from Evin jail here.

Mr Farzami was arrested at the end of February. Authorities claimed then that Islamic students who seized the American Embassy in Tehran had found documents relating to him.

The opening of his trial some 4 weeks ago was reported in the Iranian press, but though he was subsequently sentenced to death authorities have refused to give details of the charges brought against him.

The execution was not mentioned in newspapers here today.

Mr Farzami was born in Switzerland of Iranian parents, and he subsequently married a Swiss citizen. He began a career in journalism after law studies in Switzerland and in France. He was editor of the JOURNAL DE TEHRAN when Islamic revolutionary authorities closed it down last year. Mr Farzami had also worked at the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE bureau here as well as for the state news agency, PARS.

The main charge against Mr Farzami, as outlined in the prosecution's indictment, which the pro-government newspaper ETTELA'AT published on November 6, is that he worked for the American Embassy here. The court said that a document found in the American Embassy proved that he was working for the United States. Three other counts which "clearly proved his guilt" were:

--"An invitation from the Canadian Embassy, a visiting card from the Polish economic attache, and an accreditation card for the king of Thailand's visit, showing that he had dealings with foreign countries."

--His possession of two private letters from Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Montazeri (son of Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Montazeri) and from Iran's spiritual leader "the Imam (Ruhollah) Khomeyni." Mr Farzami was accused of "sticking the torn-up letters back together and making a photocopy for the American Embassy."

--The last piece of "evidence" was "the photostat of pages in his passport, showing that he had made many trips to Europe and America."

The newspaper reported that "in his defence the accused said that in order to earn a living he had been obliged to supply the American Embassy with reports and information based on his own analyses and what he had read in foreign newspapers."

It was also alleged that Mr Farzami had admitted that the SAVAK, the shah's secret police, had "obliged him to work with the American Embassy." "For this the SAVAK once made me a present of 150,000 rials," the newspaper quoted him as saying in court.

It added: "The accused clearly stated that he had worked for the American Embassy and had supplied it with information, though at the time he had been ignorant of American crimes in Iran." The report concluded that Mr Farzami had "repented and would accept whatever verdict the tribunal reached."

SYRIAN PAPER REPORTS BRZEZINSKI SUPPORT FOR IRAQ

GF171328 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Dec 80

[Text] The Damascus paper AL-BA'TH reported that the White House adviser for national security, Brzezinski, has declared his support for Saddam at-Tikriti and has asked the new administration to maintain Washington's good relations with the Iraqi regime and to establish estraordinary relations with it.

Citing travelers coming from Iraq, the paper reported that there are acute social problems in Iraq as a result of widespread tension and rebellion in all Iraqi cities. It added that the main reason for these problems in Saddam's long war against Iran and the devastation of industrial installations and other institutions.

The paper said that Iraq is suffering from a severe shortage of foodstuffs and that resentment is widespread.

TEHRAN REBUTS BAGHDAD RADIO REPORTS ON KORDESTAN

JN170828 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0457 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Excerpt] Baghdad radio has claimed that the Persians have attacked the mosques in Kordestan and killed the worshippers. Oh God! All those who have listened to Baghdad radio are well aware that these are mere contentions and lies. This clearly shows the stupidity of the Iraqi information media and the extent of its lies and fabrications, which have become a feature of Saddam's information and of his black Qadisiyah. We wonder who Baghdad radio is deceiving? Is it the Muslims who have seen Saddam's planes savagely raiding densely populated cities and destroying mosques?

AD-DA'WAH PARTY REPORTS ON SITUATION IN IRAQ

JN170831 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] The information center of the Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party has received the following news:

1. One Muslim Iraqi soldier joined the Islamic front in Ahvaz yesterday in response to the sacred call of religion. He surrendered himself and his car, which was full of bombs and explosives, to the Islamic forces.

2. The number of Iraqi soldiers who have deserted to Islam's land has increased noticeably in recent days. These soldiers have explained the state of terror that prevails over the defeated At-Tikriti army.

3. Despite the huge material assistance rulers of reactionary Arab regimes are offering to the agent At-Tikriti regime, it has become certain that the local market is suffering from fuel shortages, particularly gasoline and gas.

IRAQI FEMALE MOJAHED BLOWS UP PIPELINE, MARTYRED

JN170907 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI cites a PARS correspondent's report on a female Iraqi Muslim mojahed blowing up an Iraqi oil pipeline in As-Sulaymaniyah. The Iraqi mojahed was martyred during the operation.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

340: 16 Dec Fighting

LD171812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1655 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Communique 340 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Muslim, combatant fellow countrymen in Iran: We hereby bring to your attention some of the activities of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during battles with the enemies of Islam and Saddam's mercenaries which took place yesterday, 16 December, on the country's southern and western fronts. The self-sacrificing combatants of the aviation force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Airborne Division, in the southern region inflicted the following blows and losses on the enemy yesterday, 16 December: the destruction of five tanks, one antiaircraft cannon, three personnel carriers, four vehicles and two machineguns. In the meantime, the Airborne Division's combatants, in their attacks against enemey forces, were able to kill or wound some 25 servicemen of the forces of the Iraqi Army.

Yesterday, various parts of Ahvaz and Susangerd were sporadically attacked by long-range enemy artillery and the heavy artillery of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran retaliated by firing back at the enemy. The intense artillery fire of our own forces in the Darkhovin, Abadan and Mared regions inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi mercenaries as follows: the destruction of one tank, three loaders, one mortar launcher, one cannon, two vehicles and a number of enemy trenches. During these operations the enemy suffered 20 casualties on the Darkhovin front.

Thanks to battery fire by the naval combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one enemy tank, one cannon and one mortar launcher were destroyed on the Abadan front and a number of enemy servicemen were killed.

On the other hand, as a result of artillery fire by five-fives and mortar launchers of the Iraqi Army mercenaries, two NCO's of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran were wounded on the Abadan-Khunishahr front.

Yesterday, on the western fronts, fighting and an exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between our own forces and the mercenary forces of the Iraqi Army, but we have no accurate information about the losses and casualties suffered by the enemy forces.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Warning Against Insulting Clergy

LD181022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Unnumbered communique issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. After the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the wave of attacks and conspiracies by colonialists and their internal mercenaries did not stop for a moment; they continued plotting and calculating open and secret conspiracies intended to jeopardize our Islamic revolution.

The conspiracies of these unfortunate ones, however, were foiled one after another by the decisive leadership of the imam of the people and the vigilance and unity of the Muslim nation of Iran.

In the course of history, the criminal colonialist has dealt deadly blows at the liberating school of Islam and the clergy, instigating separation between the army and the nation and then between the clergy and the nation, intended to destroy the unity and solidarity of this risen nation. To this end, it has become so impudent that the idea of aggression on the holy principle of clerical rule [velayat-e faqih] has crossed its mind; but the Muslim and vigilant people and the combatant Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran know their real guardians, and with the utmost awareness will foil the sinister and devilish plot of the aliens, that is, the very fight against Islam which today has become crystallized in the shape of struggle against the clergy.

The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who are ready to give their lives with decisiveness, will not tolerate any insult against the holy principle of clerical rule.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TEHRAN REPORTS ON SITUATION AT WESTERN FRONT

LD171846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] A PARS correspondent's dispatch from the battlefronts in the western parts of the country says: Last night and today the combatants of Islam, using heavy and light weapons and artillery, pounded enemy positions, trenches, border posts, fortifications, and in certain trenches attacked enemy troops using guerrilla operations and hand-to-hand fighting from trench to trench.

On the Sumar front a number of Islam's combatants laid a minefield in one of the axes in that region, destroying two vehicles and killing three enemy soldiers. Also, thanks to the Islamic combatants' artillery fire on this axis, seven enemy trenches were destroyed. During these operations 20 enemy servicemen were either killed or wounded.

According to the same report, during other operations by Islam's combatants on one of Zahab's fronts, casualties were inflicted on the enemy forces, but the figures have not yet been worked out. On the same front two of Islam's combatants were martyred and another five were wounded. Also, the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Gilan-e Gharb aimed their artillery fire at Iraq's Banmil base, at posts and the (Mian-Sang) axis and inflicted losses on base and enemy equipment and vehicles moving along that route. The same report also says: During successful guerrilla operations the enemy's supply route in the Gilan-e Gharb region was damaged.

Battle Successes

LD171820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1658 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS correspondent's dispatch, artillery exchanges and sporadic clashes continued on the Abadan front between Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraq's mercenary army from last night till this morning. On the basis of the same dispatch, Saddam's dupes yesterday and today aimed their long-range artillery fire and mortar launchers at Abadan's residential areas and defenseless inhabitants as a result of which action a number of citizens were wounded.

According to a Central News Bureau dispatch, quoting Abadan's operation staff headquarters, yesterday afternoon Islam's combatants, during operations on the Bahmanshir front, destroyed one road-tanker and a mortar launcher of the Iraqi mercenaries.

Also, according to a PARS correspondent's dispatch, during these clashes several enemy squad trenches were also destroyed and a number of Saddam's mercenaries were killed. According to the same dispatch, during these battles our own forces did not suffer any losses or casualties.

According to a PARS dispatch, thanks to mortar fire by our guard brothers on the Karkheh Kur axis a loader of Saddam mercenaries was totally destroyed and some 30 to 40 Iraqi cercenaries were either killed or wounded. Also, Islam's combatant forces, during guerrilla operations on the Allaho Akbar heights, succeeded in destroying two enemy tanks and in killing or wounding some 20 to 30 Iraqi infidels. According to the same report, all the combatants of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran returned to their bases safely. According to a PARS correspondent's dispatch from Dezful the city was today, as on former days, subjected to artillery fire by the Iraqi Army mercenaries. According to the same report no one was killed in the city of Dezful up to 1700 today, but two wounded persons were moved to the city's hospital.

BATTLE SUCCESSES IN ILAM PROVINCE REPORTED

LD171916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1658 GMT 17 Dec 80

[Text] Quoting the public relations department of Ilam's guards corps, PARS reported: Yesterday, thanks to mortar fire by our self-sacrificing brothers from Ilam's guards corps on the Konjancham heights region, a cave full of ammunition for Iraq's aggressive army was totally destroyed and this resulted in enemy losses and casualties. But so far we have no accurate reports about the number of losses. Our heroic, combatant corps brothers, on this front, also succeeded in destroying 4 trenches belonging to the Iraqi mercenaries, killing 9 aggressors and wounding another 10. Fortunately, during these operations, the corps' Muslim and self-sacrificing forces suffered no losses in materiel or any casualties.

Another PARS dispatch, quoting the same source, says: During the past 2 days our corps brothers, using mortars, shelled enemy positions on the heights of the Konjancham dam and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the Iraqi mercenaries.

During this clash one enemy tent was destroyed by mortar fire from the brave combatants and all enemy personnel inside were killed. On the basis of this report, during operations by the corps' brave combatants, some 30 of Saddam's forces were killed and a large number were also wounded. Large quantities of enemy equipment and ammunition were destroyed.

The Central News Bureau's correspondent, quoting the supervisor of Ilam Province's office for the mobilization of the oppressed, reported: The province's mobilization personnel, during the past few days, by penetrating enemy territory, succeeded in destroying one command jeep and in killing its occupants. They also inflicted heavy losses and casualties on Iraqi mercenary forces in enemy trenches in Mehran's (Dasht-e Mohsenab).

AHVAZ RADIO ISSUES RED ALERT WARNING 18 DEC

GF181220 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1205 GMT 18 Dec 80

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention, please pay attention. The siren you are about to hear is the red alert signal. It means an air attack is imminent. [sound of siren] [Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian repeats this announcement at 1214 GMT on 18 December]

NVOI COMMENTARY ON NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY

TA171845 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 17 December carried a commentary entitled: "The Iranian Nation Supports the Imam's Popular and Anti-Imperialist Line." It reported that Ayatollah Montazeri, during his recent message to the Iranian nation, while emphasizing the important elements for preserving the gains of the revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic, stressed the great importance of unity of word and action and the leadership of the imam of the nation, which is an undeniable fact. Ayatollah Montazeri alluded to the recent events in our country, especially in Esfahan, and called on the people to confront these events with awareness and to identify the principle elements of the great plot against the nation. Although Ayatollah Montazeri did not specify these elements, it is obvious to all that his target was the followers of Satan, agents of the former regime, the millionaires, big landowners and the arrogant--these desirers of the return of U.S. imperialism to Iran--and their mouthpieces, like the Qotbzadehs, the Yazdis, the Bazargans and a group of pseudo-clergy.

It was only unity of word and action of the Iranian people and the correct and decisive leadership of the imam of the nation that so far has foiled all the satanic plans of U.S. imperialism against our nation. The Americans are now clearly observing that the war imposed on the Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq has not achieved for them the required results. Therefore, they have mobilized their agents and mercenaries, headed by the compromising liberal bourgeois, to bring the war among the people and to discredit Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world. They have openly risen against the popular and anti-imperialist line of the imam. In some parts of the country they have gone as far as tearing up the imam's pictures and insulting the revolutionary and true clergy. Their aim is struggle against the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line, namely, the line of deprived and toiling people, and the line of final struggle against all traces of U.S. domination. The legal and logical response of the Iranian people and the responsible officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran should be a decisive confrontation with these enemies of the system of the Islamic Republic and the gains of the revolution by resorting to unity of word and action.

BRIEFS

FARS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS--The sum of 303.4 million rials has been allocated for 8 development projects in Fars Province. These include the paving of roads in Abadeh and Abarqu and streets in Soqab; completion of a road bridge and asphalting of Suryan and Estahbanat roads which were begun last year. About 42.5 million rials will be spent on paving roads in Eqlid and Jahrom and constructing as abattoir, two halls for washing the dead prior to burial, and the extension of the local park. Some 21 million rials is allocated for the completion of the Darab thoroughfare and other roads in the area. About 24.5 million rials will be spent on the drainage system in Ardekan. [Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 14 Dec 80 GF]